

## **Legal Safeguards For Your Innovative Contribution**

Innovation is the driving force behind almost everything we see in the modern world. The different conveniences that we benefit from in transportation, communication, manufacturing, health care, engineering, and other fields and specializations were borne out of the design and hard work of individuals who had the vision to research and study certain concepts or ideas they formed in their heads, bringing these ideas to life.

Much has been discussed for many years about intellectual property, copyrights, and other concepts of the law that make sure proper attribution and credit goes to the rightful innovators and inventors. At the moment, there are several patent disputes and copyright infringement lawsuits filed in different courts around the world by major smartphone companies and technology firms against each other, all alleging in one form or another that the ideas which they have patented have been copied by their competitors.

What exactly are patent laws? Simply put, patents are granted by a sovereign state to the inventor or owner of intellectual property, so that the invention or design can be released publicly with the guarantee and legal protection that attribution goes to the rightful owner. There are many different processes and legalities that are part of the patent process. Aside from verifying different patentability requirements, a [patent search](#) is also conducted to make sure no one else holds a patent for the same idea or device.

If you consult with a patent expert or lawyer regarding a [patent application](#), one of the things they will remind you of is to refrain from talking about or revealing your intellectual property to any one until you have the legal safety net of a patent or copyright. Why is this so? If the required safeguards for your intellectual property right have not been put in place just yet, then that could absolve any one of liability if they decide to use your invention or concept and develop it on their own for profit. Worse, they could apply for a patent and get it before you do, which then further complicates the situation.

Protecting yourself and your personal work should be of utmost importance especially in this day and age of cutthroat competition. Your contributions to science, technology, engineering, or other areas should be properly attributed to you. Make sure that you are aware of legal options available to you and that the result of your hard work and creativity has the right patent protection from the unscrupulous.

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